decision to release the Hurriyat leaders was taken by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government. There is no question of Government acting under pressure from any quarter, Government's position is well known that there is no room for third-party mediation in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) There is no US mediation to bring India, Pakistan and Kashmiri groups to the negotiating table. The US Government Spokesman has stated on a number of occasions that it does not seek a mediator role between India and Pakistan with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. On 7th July, the US Government stated, in response to a question on this issue, that "I saw those reports, and know, we are not and have not done any such things... the United States has not changed our approach to Kashmir. We do not see ourselves as mediators"

Pak appeal to India

†2703. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has appealed to India to postpone actions against all terrorist groups active in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether Government is going to accede to such appeal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) As part of its policy of sponsoring, aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan has, time and again, been critical of the actions of our security forces against terrorists;

Government remains firm in its resolve to defeat Pakistan's

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

Agreement to secure border between India and Nepal

2704. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have recently agreed to secure the border between them without disturbing the free flow of its nationals;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between National Security Advisor with high dignitaries of Nepal Government at Kathmandu; and

(c) to what extent Nepalese Government have succeeded in checking the free flow of ISI agents and anti-Indian activists at its borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held from February 1—3, 2000 in Kathmandu. Subsequently, the Home Secretary-level talks between the two countries were also held in Kathmandu from July 5—7, 2000. During these meetings, the two sides reiterated their determination not to permit the use of their respective terrorists for activities directed against the other. They had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the India-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the privilege of unimpeded access across the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. The need for intensified and coordinated patrolling at sensitive border points was discussed with the objective of enhancing security and preventing missuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.